

WEST TISBURY PLANNING BOARD MINUTES September 13, 2021

PRESENT: Leah Smith, Ginny Jones, Matt Merry, Henry Geller, Amy Upton.

ABSENT: Bea Phear

ALSO PRESENT: Gerald Latter, Greg Pachico, Paul Morrison, Nick and Lori Ionntiu. Laurie Peter and Jane Rossi.

Ginny opened the meeting at 5:30

•Discussion with Paul Morrison of the Trustees of Reservations RE: a portion of Scrubby Neck Road:

Paul Morrison explained that he has been the Steward Manager, and has been handling the properties since April. He said he moved here from Concord, MA having been a police detective. He said that regarding the road issue, Lori Ionntiu had sent him some background on the special way. Scrubby Neck Road was designated back in 1991. Paul said that his experience is only from this year.

Paul went on to explained that he had met with David Bouck in the past who explained the winter/summer entrances and how they function. He said the lot holds 125 spaces. In the past the lot was on a first come, first serve basis. During the pandemic the Trustees adopted a “reservations only” concept. The season runs from June 19th through September 12th. Leah asked if reservations had stopped because she hadn’t seen the sign posted on Edgartown Road recently. Paul explained that toward the end of August they began to lose their summer staff so they had to move the sign down to the Gate House. Also, the number of cars at that point had decreased. He said feedback from David Bouck and some neighbors commented that traffic had decreased due to the reservations only policy.

Paul explained that he sent a revised spreadsheet to Jane prior to the meeting because the initial numbers were incorrect. Leah asked what the average number of cars were on 2020 and Paul said 65. Matt asked about 2021 and Paul said 76. He said capacity at its peak was 100 to 90 cars that can potentially go down the road. He said the lot capacity if 125 and it is never full. Leah asked what the highest number was and Paul said on August 1st there were 141 cars.

Ginny mentioned that the new Fire Chief was present, and that he and Paul may want to get together and discuss safety issues within the Trustees properties.

Lori Ionntiu said it was interesting to receive the date Paul provided. She said that last year there were close to 65 cars heading to the beach in the morning and 80 in the afternoon, which was 80% capacity. This year there were 85 in the morning and 100 in the afternoon. She pointed out that in the past few years cars have been parking around the circle. Paul said that was in the past and he can only attest for this season. Leah ask if there has been a change and Paul said the reservations only policy has worked. If the reservations are maxed out, parking is cut off and many make a reservation but don’t show up. Henry stated that Sam Hart had promised not to use the circle. The use of it ate up a lot of the natural habitat. Paul said that Covid was an issue this year. He went on to say that the re is a lack of clarity in this He knows there was an agreement 30 years ago between the town and the Trustees, and the parking was apparently expanded without a permit. There is an ongoing question about capacity. He said that based on the reservation plan, there should be a specific number of reservations to lot space.

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Henry said that the routes down to the beach are complicated. Waldron's Bottom Road is a legal access but some use Vineyard Meadows Farm Road and he has even seen some TTOR trucks using the road. Vehicles kick up a lot of dust on Waldron's Bottom Road and the road association is not happy. People are adding traffic to other roads aside from the one intended for access to the beach. There has been some discussion of providing a second road to the gate house on Scrubby Neck Road. Henry said that Sam Hart said it was not a good idea because of the habitat issue, and yet, The Trustees cared out space for a new gate house with no consideration for the habitat yet there was no consideration of adding a second road. There is a generalized feeling that this will remain complicated unless we do something.

Matt stated that the number of vehicles on a daily basis appear to be fewer than what we have previously heard. He asked how the traffic was this past summer. Lori said it was worse. She said there were 500 car trips at capacity and the road is changing/ wearing away. She explained that Waldron's Bottom Road is maintained, but Scrubby Neck Road continues to erode. Big storms make it worse and it's getting wider. When turning in to come home, Lori said that people are widening the road with their cars. Matt stated that when talking about capacity, you need to go back to the Trustees and discuss either a new road or changing the heavy traffic issue. He said we need to move forward on this. Paul said he will speak with Elizabeth, who took over Sam Hart's position, prior to the next meeting. She wasn't able to make the meeting due to prior commitment.

Nick Ionntiu reiterated Lori's comments that they have lived on the road for over 30 years and have observed the road damage. In 1990 and 1991 there were 90 parking spaces in the lot. Since then it has increased to 125. He said he is concerned that the Trustees have never applied for a special permit to expand the lot. He said the road has been widened in two places and it is a special way so that is not allowed.

Henry thanked Paul for appearing before the board for the discussion. The discussion will continue at the next meeting in two weeks.

●Site Plan Review application from Patti Roads to install a bathroom in a detached ● with a bathroom on Map 21 Lot 13.4-1, 30 Dr. Fisher Road:

The applicant was not present to present her plan.

●Discussion with the Fire Chief:

Ginny began by suggesting that Greg Pachico and Paul Morrice get together to discuss any areas of concern within the Trustees of Reservations properties, particularly water sources. Greg mentioned that he wasn't aware the parking lot at Long Point Beach had gotten that big. Also, he pointed out that the road needs to be a minimum of 10 feet wide with a 12-foot cut back on either side of the roads.

Greg explained that there is an Island wide plan under way with the Martha's Vineyard Commission, and people will be allowed to weigh in on the subject. He said it lays out all the issues regarding wild fire and funding. He pointed out that Karen, the new State Forest Warden, broke her leg at the beginning of the summer and has been unable to clear the fire paths until recently. This has set things back a bit and we have lost a season.

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Greg let the board know that there is an app they can view called “I Am Responding”. It provides information for pre-planning. He said Joe has been logging water sources and solar power sources. He said that how the fire department access swimming pools as a water source is an issue because standing pipes are a problem. Basically, the property owner doesn’t want to have a standing pipe or they don’t want to see it. Therefore. The Fire Department can’t find it.

Greg said he has a map that shows the locations of water sources and he will email it the Jane.

Greg explained that they are taking steps to get a fire hydrant located on Lambert’s Cove Road, preferably at the beach parking lot. They are working with Island Water Source. They need a 20,000-gallon tank. Red Farm has a 10,000-gallon tank and Scott’s Grove has a 20,000-gallon tank. Arnie Fisher will install a fire hydrant. Therefore, the Fire Protection plan has water sources.

Greg mentioned that standard roadways are not up to standard. Property owners are not maintaining their driveways and this needs attention. Matt agreed and said he can see the same thing when he is working out in the field. Some road associations are fine while others are lacking proper attention. Greg suggested putting together a bylaw that is specific to the rules on road maintenance. Matt said that having a list of roads that are not up to standard would be helpful. The board could draft a letter stating the need for safety on roads and driveways. The Select Board and Fire Department could sign it and then a bylaw could be drafted for the future. Ambulances need to be able to get through as well.

Greg pointed out that the state is beginning to pass residential sprinkler systems. Places such as Watcha Club Road have no water source so that area is where it would be beneficial. Leah pointed out that it would be expensive. Greg said they will put something together since it is being promoted. Ginny asked about fire escapes. Greg said there is no state mandate for fire escapes, but rather, a second floor must have two forms of egress which can be a door and a large window.

●Capital Improvements Vote:

Matt said he would fill the position of representative to the Capital Improvements Committee.

Ginny moved and Leah seconded the motion. Ginny-yes, Leah-yes, Henry-yes.

●Vacant Associate Member position:

Jane said that Doug Finn is the only one to have responded to fill the position. Jane was asked to forward his letter to the board.

●Administrator vacation turnover:

Ginny moved and Leah seconded the motion to approve the turnover. Ginny-yes, Leah-yes, Matt-yes, Henry-yes.

●MINUTES:

Ginny moved and Leah seconded the motion to approve the August 30, 2021 minutes. Ginny- yes, Leah-yes, Matt-yes, Henry-yes.

Adjourned at 6:50pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Rossi, Administrator

**Approved on November 1, 2021- Bea, yes, Leah-yes, Ginny-yes,
Matt-yes.**